

人里の木
RENRI-NO-EDA
INTERTWINING BRANCHES

A biological epic sure to leave you in tears!

WHAT
IS TRUE
LOVE?









SHAKE SHAKE

"I CAN DO ALL MY WEB DESIGN WORK FROM HOME ANYWAY, SO I MIGHT AS WELL LIVE SOMEWHERE NICE AND QUIET."

COME ON, KEI-CHAN. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID,



IT'D BE A WASTE NOT TO GET SOME IN YOUR LUNGS.

HEY,
THE MORNING AIRS SO FRESH

OSH

I GET
ENOUGH OF
IT ALREADY.

I'M BORED
OF THE
COUNTRY AIR.









TOLD ME IT
WAS JUST A
SUPPLEMENT OR
SOMETHING.

BUT I CAN'T
TRUST THAT
GUY.

HEY'S
SENSEI.

HE GAVE ME A
SHOT THAT TIME
I WENT WITH YOU
TO SEE HIM.

HE'S THE ONLY
DOCTOR IN THE
VILLAGE.

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO WENT
AWAY AND BOUGHT
THE HOUSE.

WELL, WHO
ELSE ARE WE
SUPPOSED
GO TOT?

I TOLD
YOU I'D BE
FINE BY
MYSELF.

I NEVER
ASKED YOU
TO COME.

UH.

HIZUKI.

I KNOW A
KID LIKE YOU
MIGHT THINK
THIS IS JUST
SOME BORING
OLD DUMP
OUT IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE.

BUT THE
GOVERN-
MENTS
TRYING TO
ENCOURAGE
PEOPLE
TO SETTLE
HERE.

YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE THE
GOVERNMENT
BENEFITS I
GET JUST BY
LIVING HERE.

YOU'D DIE
WITHOUT
ME LOOKING
AFTER YOU.

I KNOW YOU'D
JUST BE EATING
INSTANT FOOD IF
I WEREN'T HERE.

YOUR WHOLE
LIFESTYLE IS
ALL MESSED
UP.

WELL, IF YOU DON'T
LIKE IT, MARRY A
NICE GIRL WHO'LL
TAKE CARE OF YOU.

YOU'LL
START
LOOKING
THAT WAY
TOO.

YOU'RE ONLY
IN YOUR TEENS
AND YOU ALREADY
SOUND LIKE MY
MOM.

I'VE
ALREADY GOT
MY HANDS
FULL TAKING
CARE OF YOU
AT MY AGE.

TOO
MANY
THINGS
TO DO.

I HAVE
TO GET
OUT THE
FURNACE.

THEN
GET THE
FIREWOOD
READY.

AND I DOUBT
I'LL GET IT ALL
DONE BEFORE
IT STARTS
SNOWING.

I'LL
HAVE TO
CHANGE
THE TIRES

IF IT
SNOWS.

I THINK
WE'LL BE FINE
FOR NOW.



THINGS ARE
SO PEACEFUL.
IT'S BORING.



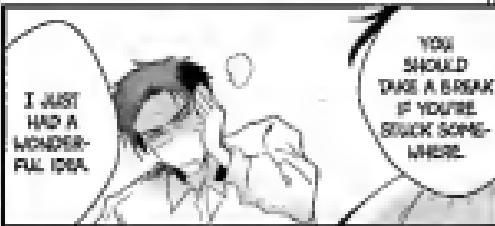
IT'S
COLD.

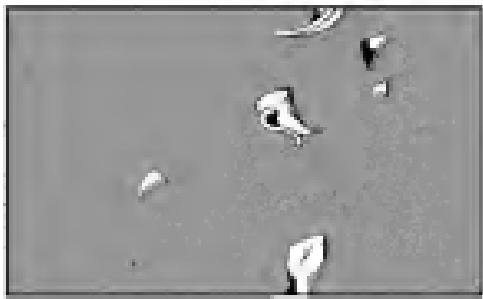


I'M GOING TO
BREW SOME
BLACK TEA,
WARM MYSELF
UP A BIT.

YOU WANT
SOME
RE-OILANT?









What is that?



What's happening to her?







How can you still smile?















The number of drugs they gave Mizuki increased with each passing day.

And during those long, long days,

ONCE I GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL...

NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE US.

SO FAR AWAY

I WANNA GO ON A PICNIC FAR, FAR AWAY.

she'd talk about all the things she'd do once she left the hospital.

YAY!

IT'S A PROM-ISH?

I KNOW YOU ALWAYS LIKED LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW FROM THE PASSENGER SIDE.

SURE.

I'LL GET THE CAR.

even though
she knows
we'll never
go on that
picnic.

She's saying
that just to
cheer me up.

THE LEAVES
TURN A LITTLE
TRANSPARENT
AND SHINE
UNDER THE
SUNLIGHT.

ISN'T IT
BEAUTIFUL?

COME
ON, STOP
LOOKING
LIKE THAT.

IT'S
NOT ALL
BAD.

Is it beautiful?

It's killing her.



...Is it beautiful to her?

but still
she never
cried.

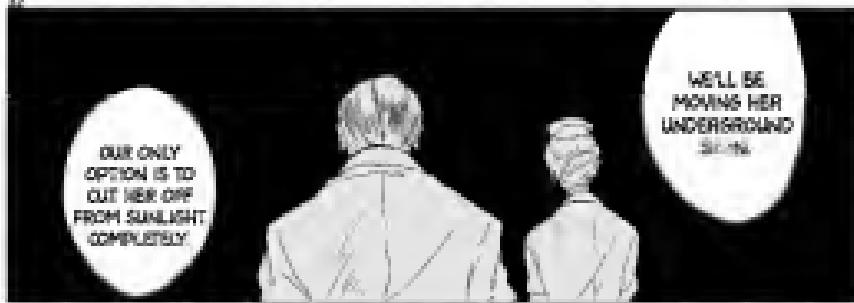


She was
always a
terrible
bar.





THE PLANE
INSIDE
MIZUKI'S
BODY



Mizuki's body
was almost
like an actual
plant.

as it ate
away at
her body.

It was
sickening
how fast
it grew.



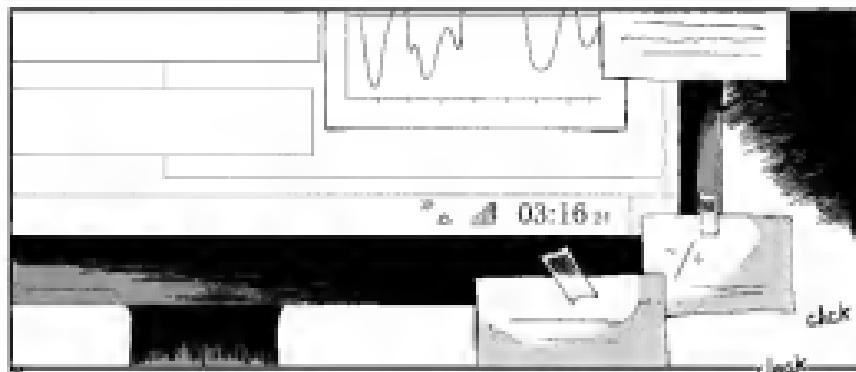




—Mizuki,



your heart is
beginning to wither.



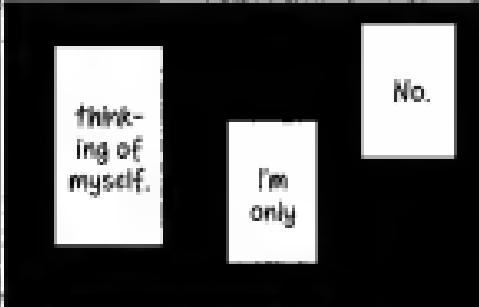
"How do you
think I'd be
happier?"





"You have to keep going."

"You have to."



thinking of myself.

I'm only

No.



MAYBE I'LL BREW SOME TEA.

I CAN'T THINK ANYMORE



ARE YOU STUCK SOMEWHERE AGAIN?



I'LL BREW
SOME TEA.

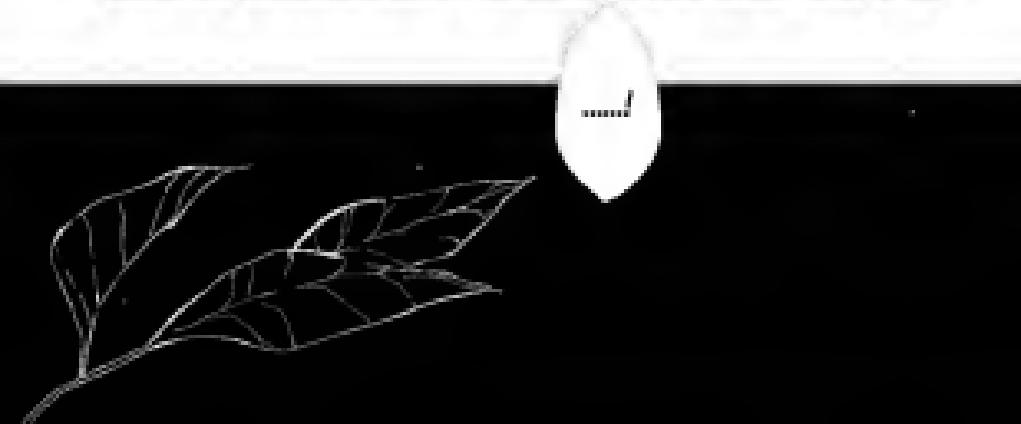
JUST
RELAX.

TAKE A
BREAK!

what can i do

to make you happy?





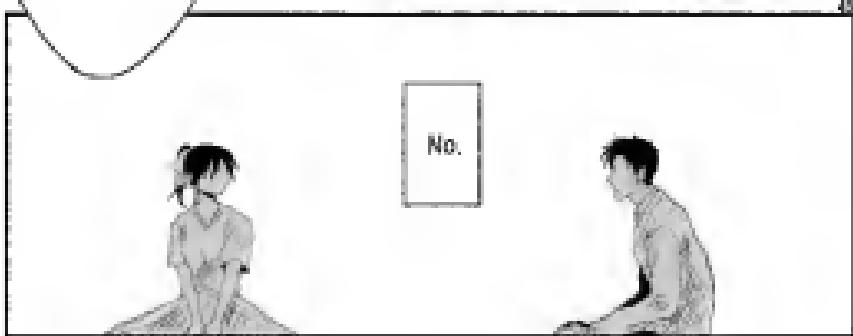


DON'T
BOther.











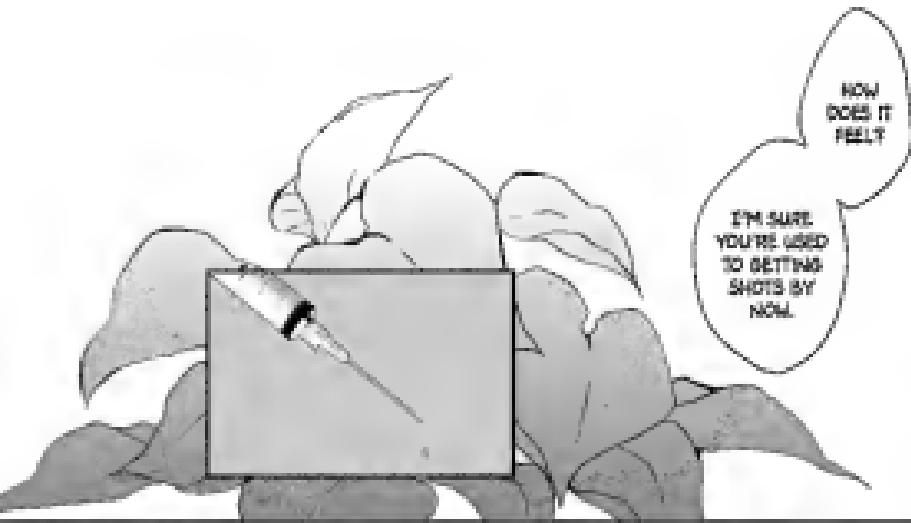


the
fragrance of
their knees
attract me



As I
walked
my way
between
the wither-
ing trees









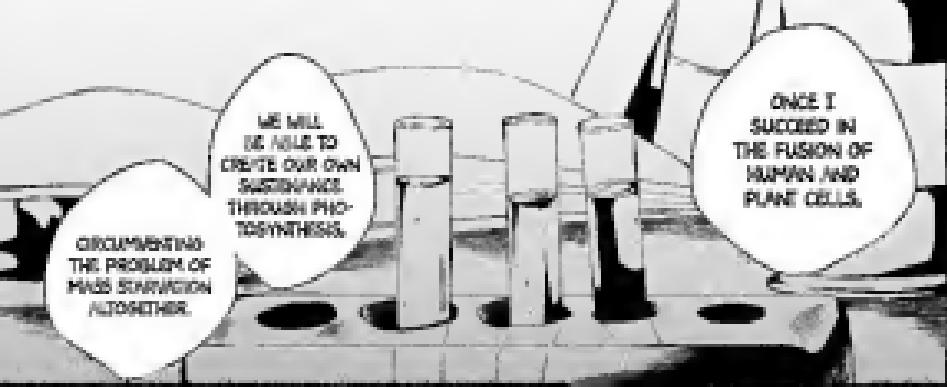
THAT
ABILITY



IS THE
KEY



TO
HUMANITY'S
CONTINUED
SURVIVAL.





THE DIE
IS CAST.



KEI-
CHAN!?



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE? IT'S
BEGUN THREE
DAYS SINCE
THE LAST TIME
YOU CAME.



KEI-
CHAN!



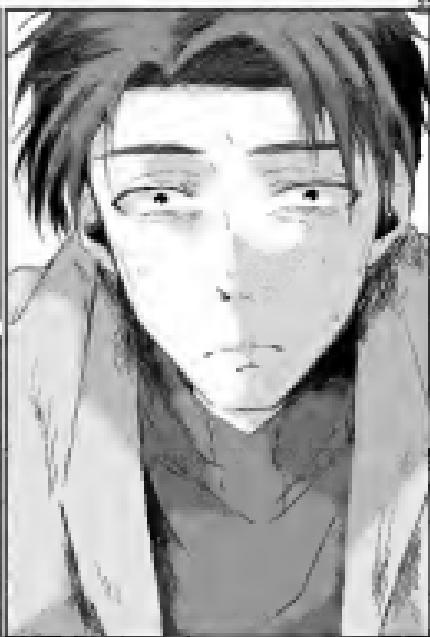
I FIGURED...
YOU WOULDN'T
BE COMING
ANYMORE,
THOUGH.

























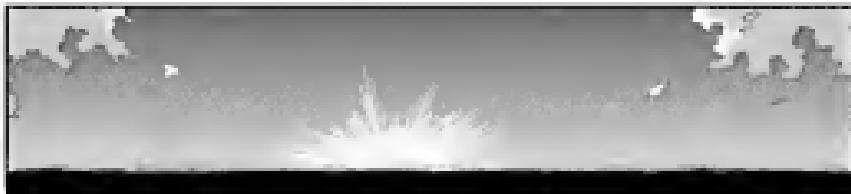














PROMISE
ME YOU'LL
TAKE YOUR
TIME.

TAKE AS
LONG AS
YOU LIKE.

ALRIGHT.

KEI-CHAN

BUT,

STOP AND
SMELL THE
ROSES ONCE
IN A WHILE.

I'LL
ALWAYS
BE WAITING
FOR YOU

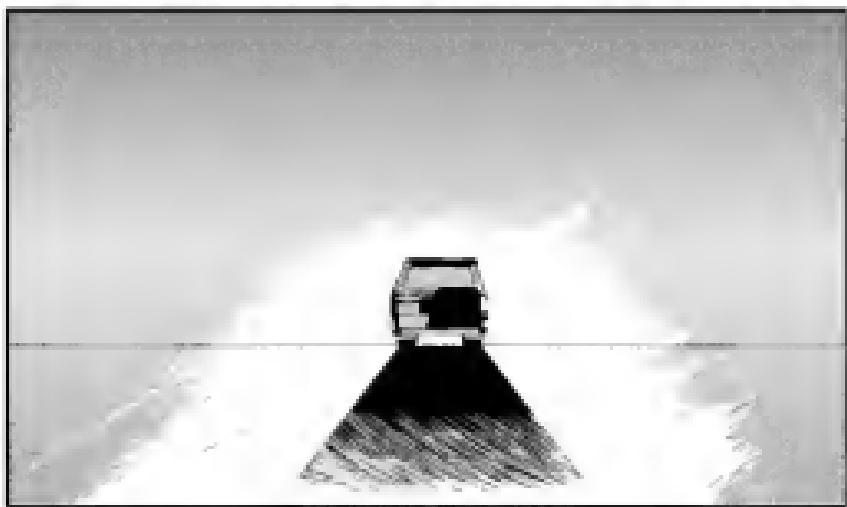
NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT
TAKES, I'LL BE
WAITING FOR
YOU.

KEI-CHAN!









ding

don't







RENO NO BOKU
連邦の木



ONE AT LAST.

RENRI NO EDA

TRANSLATION NOTE

The folktale *Renri no Eda* is from a compilation of supernatural legends called *Soushen Ji* or "In Search of the Supernatural." The story is of a minister named Han Ping, who served the state of Song in its last years during the Warring States period, and his wife, whose maiden name was He. The Song king coveted Han Ping's wife for her great beauty and took her for himself, sentencing Han Ping to hard labor so that they would never meet again. The two began sending cryptic letters to each other, ostensibly discussing the weather, but in reality planning their suicide, which they carried out shortly thereafter. In her will, Han Ping's wife requested that they be buried beside each other so that they could be together in death as they couldn't in life. Enraged, the king ordered their ashes buried apart and declared that if they could yet somehow find a way to be with one another, he would do nothing more to stop them. Within a few days two trees sprang forth from their graves and began growing towards each other, their branches becoming inseparably intertwined, and a pair of birds then built their nest on the trees' branches and sang day and night.

This tale would later become the inspiration for the closing lines of a poem called *Chang han ge* or "The Song of Everlasting Regret", which is a retelling of the romance of a Tang emperor and his concubine, tragically cut short by her death at the hands of rebels. The poem was immensely popular, influencing works ranging from the *Tale of Genji* to Cantonese operas. The phrase "renri no eda" or "intertwining branches" is taken from the final passage of poem, in which the emperor reminisces about the vows he and the concubine made to each other before her death.

"In the sky, let us be two birds, soaring wing to wing.
And on the earth, let us be two branches of a tree, inseparably intertwined."



PRESENTED BY

LOVELY STRANGE DARK
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

Rawg: Elemhunter

Translation: Haremless

Editing: Cpt. Mischief

QC: hahhah42